



# **SAN ANTONIO POLICE**

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## **News Release**

### ***OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING***

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved shooting reveals the following: On March 11, 2005, at approximately 8:23pm, San Antonio Police Officers John Pagola and Jeffrey Rhinehart, both 2-year veterans, responded to 26214 Cuyahoga Circle for a disturbance with a knife call. The caller reported that an individual, later identified as Harold Karugth 38-years of age, was armed with a knife and was threatening to harm himself and the caller.

Minutes later, both officers arrived and contacted an elderly male and female, who identified themselves as the parents of Karugth. Karugth's parents were both standing on the front sidewalk. Officer Pagola and Rhinehart were told that Karugth was inside the home and was armed with a knife. Fearing for Karugth's safety, Officer Pagola and Rhinehart entered the home and found Karugth in a back bedroom. Karugth was in the process of cutting himself when both officers ordered him to stop and drop his knife. Instead, Karugth started to verbally challenge the officers by making threats. As Officer Pagola and Rhinehart attempted to negotiate with Karugth, he suddenly got up and while still armed with his knife, Karugth started to advance towards both officers. With their guns drawn, and while ordering Karugth to stop, both officers retreated back to the point of standing on the front porch. At that point, both officers were unable to retreat any further and feared for their lives. Officer Pagola then fired his service weapon several times towards Karugth, striking him several times. E.M.S. was called to the scene where Karugth was airlifted to BAMC. At 10:07pm, Karugth was pronounced dead by BAMC medical staff.

The San Antonio Police Department's shooting Team is handling the investigation and will submit their findings to Police Chief Albert A. Ortiz and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. As per policy, Officer Pagola will be placed on administrative duty while the investigation continues.

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***